

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 FDRE-00 IO-03 AGR-03 PC-04 INT-01

COME-00 DODE-00 IGA-02 EB-05 ACDA-08 CU-04 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 SCI-01 /108 W

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R 261459Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8198

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

UNCLAS BAMAKO 3608

AFDROUGHT

E O 11652 N A

SUBJ: CISTERN DROUGHT PROJECT MIT'S HANS GUGGENHEIM

1. PROFESSOR GUGGENHEIM VISITED MALI RECENTLY AND DISCUSSED A PILOT PROJECT WITH EMBASSY TO QTE AID DOGON VILLAGERS OF THE BANDIAGARA CLIFFS IN MALI TO CONVERT TRADITIONAL, CLAY-BUILT GRANARIES INTO WATERPROOF CISTERNS BY LINING THEM WITH THIN COAT FERROCEMENT. A WATER-COLLECTING SYSTEM TO FEED THESE CISTERNS WILL BE CREATED BY LINKING THE TERRACED ROOFTOPS IN A NETWORK OF WATERSPOUTS UNQTE. GUGGENHEIM PROPOSES TO BRING 10-12 MIT AND HARVARD STUDENTS TO MALI JANUARY 74 TO WORK IN DOGON COUNTRY AND REQUESTED EMBASSY PROVIDE \$12,000 IN SELF-HELP OR OTHER DROUGHT RELIEF FUNDS.

2. IN SPITE OF CHARGE'S INITIAL ENTHUSIASM AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR PROJECT, EMBASSY SELF HELP COMMITTEE HAS DEVELOPED STRONG AND VALID MISGIVINGS ABOUT PROJECT AS PRESENTLY PLANNED. AS RESULT OF SELF HELP COMMITTEE WILL NOT APPROVE FUNDING FOR PROJECT AS CONSTITUTED BECAUSE: (A) DOGONS NOT GROUP IN URGENT NEED THIS TYPE OF PROJECT. MANY OTHER AREAS MORE URGENTLY NEED ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP WATER

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RESOURCES; (B) PROJECT DOES NOT REQUIRE PRESENCE 10-12

AMERICANS FOR EXECUTION BUT COULD BE DONE WITH LOCAL LABOR;  
AND (C) REMOTENESS OF AREA CHOSEN PRESENTS SERIOUS  
LOGISTICAL DIFFICULTIES NOT ONLY FOR TRANSPORT MATERIALS  
OVERLAND FROM MOPTI (THREE HOUR DRIVE) BQD PROBLEM OF  
SUPPORTING AMERICAN STUDENTS THIS REMOTE AREA.

3. GUGGENHEIM TOLD CHARGE PROJECT HAD QTE STRONG SUPPORT UNQTE  
MINDEFENSE. HOWEVER, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MINDEFENSE,  
DOUKARA, HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE DOGONS BEST CHOICE  
FOR SUCH PROJECT AND SECONDLY, IF GUGGENHEIM WANTS TO  
MOVE AHEAD WITH PROJECT DOUKARA VERY EMPHATIC THAT GOM  
WOULD QTE PERMIT ONLY GUGGENHEIM AND ONE STUDENT UNQTE TO  
CARRY OUT PROJECT DOGON COUNTRY. ALSO, EMBASSY BELIEVES  
THAT DOZEN STUDENTS BROUGHT INTO MALI ENVIRONMENT SHORT  
NOTICE WORK REMOTE AREA COULD CAUSE TREMENDOUS SUPPORT  
PROBLEMS ESPECIALLY IF ANY STUDENTS SHOULD FALL SICK OR  
BECOME SERIOUSLY INJURED THIS REMOTE AREA REQUIRING  
EVACUATION. WHILE GUGGENHEIM HAS ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED  
APPROVAL DOGON ELDERS THIS PROJECT, EMBASSY BELIEVES  
PROJECT WOULD HAVE MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS IN OTHER  
AREA WHERE NEEDS ARE GREATER AND WITH LOCATION CLOSER TO  
BAMAKO. WHILE DOGON PROJECT UNDERSTANDABLY ATTRACTIVE  
ACTIVITY FOR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, UNIVERSITY STUDENTS,  
AND GUGGENHEIM, WHO IS AN AVID COLLECTOR DOGON ART,  
EMBASSY CANNOT JUSTIFY USE SELF HELP FUNDS THIS PROJECT.  
FAO SOCIOLOGIST MARIANNE RUPP HAS ASKED FOR DETAILS  
AND STATUS OF SECOND GUGGENHEIM PROJECT IN NARA (SECOND  
REGION), INVOLVING RESERVOIRS AND CISTERNS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: BECAUSE OF GUGGENHEIM'S INTENTION  
GET NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TO FILM AMERICAN STUDENTS WORKING  
ON CISTERNS DOGON COUNTRY AND HIS PENDING ARRANGEMENTS  
BRING THIS NUMBER STUDENTS MALI, EMBASSY REQUESTS  
DEPT CONTACT GUGGENHEIM MIT ASAP (TEL 617-536-8780)  
TO RELATE DROUGHT COORDINATOR'S RESERVATION THAT ONLY  
GUGGENHEIM AND ONE STUDENT SHOULD BE INVOLVED AND  
EMBASSY DECISION NOT TO PROVIDE SELF HELP FUNDS.  
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## Message Attributes

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